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HCR 3 HD 1  
COMMENDING AND SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
TO ERADICATE FRUIT FLIES IN HAWAII

Statement for  
Senate Committee on  
Agriculture  
Public Hearing - March 23, 1989

By  
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HCR 3 HD 1 recognizes the fruit industry in Hawaii, the adverse impacts of fruit flies to that industry, and commends the United States Department of Agriculture on their efforts to eradicate fruit flies in Hawaii.

Our comments on this concurrent resolution do not represent an institutional position of the University of Hawaii.

As appropriately noted in the "where as" clauses of HCR 3 HD 1, the fruit fly problem is an ongoing concern of the agricultural industry in Hawaii. As such, it is also a major concern of the state as a whole and has been an area of intense research by the University of Hawaii and particularly by the College of Tropical Agriculture. The recent efforts of the USDA with regard to the development of the fruit fly sterilization facility at Waimanalo and the initiation of a biological control program on Maui represent examples of the many efforts by the USDA and other researchers to develop methods to control fruit flies in Hawaii. As noted in the committee report no one method is likely to be 100 percent successful and continuing research into various eradication techniques coupled with objective monitoring of the results of the eradication efforts must be supported to develop environmentally responsible and effective eradication methods. Problems associated with lower mating success of irradiated males, and relatively poor effectiveness of some of the beneficial parasites released on Maui to control fruit flies point up the need for continued emphasis on basic research.

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We concur with the intent of HCR 3 HD 1 and are pleased to note that most of the amendments recommended at previous hearings on this resolution have been incorporated into HD 1.

We suggest that HR 3 HD 1 be further amended to commend the USDA particularly with regard to their specific efforts to develop biologically and environmentally acceptable methodologies without recourse to aerial applications of pesticides for fruit fly control. Such a specific commendation would reinforce the need for environmentally responsible methodologies in contrast to the previously proposed wide scale aerial application of pesticides that pose the threat of serious environmental degradation and potentially significant impacts to non-target species.